

Dr. D. Cover Sheet**Michael Higley-Vance****September 30, 2013**

EDU7002-8	Dr. Donna Rice
Educational Research Methodology	Assignment #7: Research Questions

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Comment [1]: No it isn't ☺

Assignment: Based on the feedback you received in Activities 4, 5, and 6, draft 4 to 6 Research Questions for your study. Use the NCU Topic Paper Template and NCU Concept Paper Template . . . as the model for your Research Questions. In this group of questions, you must have at least 2 that are qualitative in nature and at least 2 that are quantitative in nature. For each question, briefly discuss the appropriate approach and speculate on the specific approaches that may be used. Length: 3-6 pages. Include 3-5 references.

Faculty Use Only

Michael,

It is not unusual to struggle with this assignment (this whole class for that matter). Here you are going through the hard work of framing your study. It is early in the process so you do not have to have everything perfect. The important part is that you see what is entailed and how exact you will need to be as you go forward. I know you are thinking of changing your topic so good chance you have seen the difficulty in how to resolve the problem.

With that in mind please relook your questions. You can find a good model with this topic. You need to ensure all is aligned. When you say in your problem you are looking at motivation one way don't change it in your question. If you decide to put motivation back into the problem make sure the questions align to it. I provided a few suggestions – they are not gospel! Just looking at a way to align and to reduce the sample size and IRB difficulties (working with minors). If you consider what I have said you will need to have some instrument that measures the students' self-efficacy (and level of motivation if you include it) – hopefully those assessment results are already available in the schools' databases and the teachers have access to them.

Find some examples of what you want to explore in recent dissertations. Make sure every question aligns with the Problem and Purpose. See comments throughout –

For your Topic paper **do not include the explanation for the questions** – just the questions. Be sure your entire problem and purpose statements are in your Topic paper. Choose quantitative or qualitative questions for your Topic Paper (not a mixture) – it is too confusing. Recheck the Best Practices Handbook and use the sample paper for Activity 8. I am looking forward to seeing your Topic Paper. Please call me with questions! 757 871 1336

Dr. Donna Rice	93	100	10/4/13
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Grading Key

20 Excellent	17 Above Average	14 Adequate	11 Needs Improvement	8 Not Acceptable
25 Excellent	20 Above Average	15 Adequate	10 Needs Improvement	5 Not Acceptable

Content 70%

| 18/20 Demonstrated a well-developed focus (introduction includes a concise statement showing the alignment of research questions with the problem and purpose statements, questions are clear, detailed, focused and appropriately complex - not broad, simple and ambiguous.

20 Thorough points of development (research questions lead to something that can be thoroughly expanded upon in Chapter 4/they are designed to avoid assuming that the findings suggest something is true when it is in fact not true. Nothing can be proved and bias toward the potential outcome must be avoided completely).

| 15/20 Achieved stated learning outcomes (research questions align with the problem and purpose statement and rationale for qualitative and quantitative methodologies).

20 Integrated key concepts and terms from course materials (each question is sufficiently different from the other and leads to a distinct answer that can be elaborated on in Chapter 4). They should each be meaningful in light of the literature that addresses the research topic and within the constraints of the research design, constructs/phenomenon and population that will be employed during the study. Quantitative questions include corresponding proposed hypotheses with the null hypotheses first.

20 Evaluated and applied concepts learned (research questions should not be written so as to lead to a "Yes" or "No" response and should be not be answerable by easily found facts).

| 93/100 Total

Writing 30%

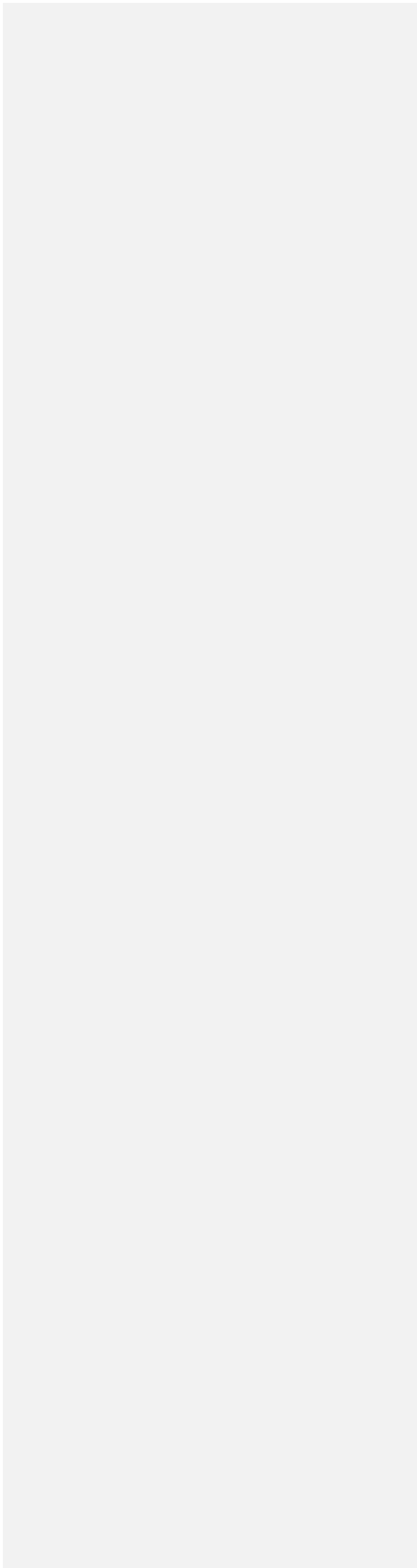
25 Appropriate and precise language

25 Proper use of APA

25 Clear divisions between the writer's voice and the sources used to support claims

25 Consistent use of standard American English in grammar and punctuation

| 100/100 Total



Problem Statement

The specific problem is to investigate teachers' perceptions of how student satisfaction in online course participation compare to student satisfaction in traditional classroom environments and how the students' self-efficacy affects their successful completion. These two learner characteristics remain the least researched learner characteristics of learners participating in online learning environments (Graf & Kinshuk, 2006; Tirrell & Quick, 2012; Huang, Lin, & Huang, 2012; Samruayruen, Enriquez, Natakutoong, & Samruayruen, 2013).

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this multiple case study is to identify and compare human behaviors, specifically, intrinsic motivation and self-efficacy that could contribute to the success rate of learners in a public K-12 online learning option program located in middle Tennessee compared to students enrolled in a traditional classroom program environment. A group of approximately one hundred elementary age online learners, two hundred fifty middle school online learners, and a group of approximately five hundred high school learners will be compared using a survey protocol. This protocol will be used to gather information about learner motivation and self-efficacy related to the success rate of learners in a public K-12 online learning program.

Research Questions

The research questions selected for this study are included to help identify and compare key human behaviors, specifically, intrinsic motivation and self-efficacy between learners in a public K-12 online learning option program and a traditional classroom environment that may affect the success rate of those learners completing an online program. Multiple methods of data collection and will be used to increase the validity of the research. Associated with the problem and purpose statements the following research questions will be addressed:

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Comment [2]: You are describing a quantitative survey study

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Comment [3]: Better to gather teacher perceptions that work with all these learners – I cannot imagine the nightmare of collecting all the permissions

Q1. How does the satisfaction of K-12 learners vary, if at all, in a public online learning environment from a traditional classroom environment?

This question will be answered quantitatively with a web-based survey to investigate significant differences, if any, between elementary, middle, and high school online learners and traditional classroom learners.

Q2. How do teachers perceive the students' self-efficacy affects their successful completion a public online learning program?

This question will be answered quantitatively with a web-based survey to investigate significant differences, if any, between elementary, middle, and high school online learners.

Q3. How does the perceived beliefs of K-12 learners vary, if at all, in a public online learning environment?

This question will be answered using a qualitative approach to explore the perceived learning of learners who successfully or unsuccessfully complete the public online learning program. Elementary, middle, and high school learners will be interviewed using a protocol designed to explore and compare how certain beliefs contributed (or did not contribute) to the successful completion of the public K-12 online learning program?

Q4. What strategies do K-12 learners use to motivate themselves in a public online learning environment?

This question will be answered using a qualitative approach to explore the strategies elementary, middle, and high school learners perceive motivate them to meet their established goals in a public online learning environment. An interview protocol will be designed to investigate if the students' strategies were perceived helpful to the learner, but also to explore if

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Comment [4]: Where in your problem and purpose did you ask about satisfaction?

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Comment [5]: Again – I do not see how this question pertains to your problem or purpose

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Comment [6]: Like Q2

the students' strategies proved to actually impact a successful (or unsuccessful) completion of the public K-12 online learning program.

Hypotheses

By using web-based surveys the hypotheses will be tested. Each question addresses a null hypothesis with no expectation of significant relationship and an alternate hypothesis that proposes that a significant relationship does exist between intrinsic motivation and self-efficacy the effect those human behaviors have on the successful (or unsuccessful) completion rate of learners in a public K-12 online learning option program.

H1₀. Learner satisfaction is the same in both learning environments, online and traditional.

H1_a. Learner satisfaction is higher when an online learning option is favored over a traditional learning environment.

H2₀. Learners in both learning environments, online and traditional, share the same learning beliefs.

H2_a. Learners in an online learning environment poses stronger learning beliefs than learners in traditional classroom environments.

References

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